

# SELF HELPS for the NEW SOLDIER

By a United States Army Officer

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## COMPANY ADVANCE.

Up to the point of encountering the enemy's fire, a company advances into an engagement in close order, whether for attack or defense. The usual formation, because of its mobility, is the column of squads. The column of squads has the double advantage of affording a convenient front for progressing along roads and through comparatively narrow spaces, such as ravines, declivities, or breaks in the trees, and of being at all times convertible into any other formation desired. The company is deployed upon reaching the zone of hostile fire for the protection of the men, but it may then continue to advance without returning the fire, depending upon the immediate circumstances.

The use of "a succession of thin lines" is a frequent matter of facilitating the advance. This reduces the losses which would otherwise be incurred if the company were deployed by greatly diminishing the man-front offered to the enemy and proportionately increasing the intervals between individuals. Thus, if the enemy knew that a unit was advancing, and had reason to believe from the apparent extent of its front that it was deployed, he would probably spread his fire accordingly.

At all events, if the unit were approaching under cover, or partial cover, he would be compelled to assume that it is deployed if he had indications of the width of the front, in order to cover the whole area with his fire. Meanwhile, the company might be advancing in columns of single or double file, with intervals between equal to the intervals between the centers of squads or platoons in deployment.

This succession of thin lines, known as "platoon or squad columns" may otherwise facilitate the advance by allowing for the passage of the company through rough or bushy territory; it also affords a better opportunity to take advantage of cover. The two latter factors are perhaps more important than the first with the squad, at least if the advance is against machine guns, for a machine gun, if it had a comparatively unobstructed range, could render the unit's entire front untenable, whether it were in squad columns, or were advancing in line of skirmishers. Platoon columns, however, moving as they do outside the area of a burst of single shrapnel (about 20 yards) may greatly reduce the losses when under artillery fire, or even under machine guns.

The choice of the method of advance is made by the captain, or by the major, if the company is with a battalion, and will depend upon the conditions at hand. If it develops that the deployment itself is premature, it is generally found best to assemble the company and proceed in close order.

Advancing in the fire attack, as we have already seen, may be accomplished by sending forward deployed squads or platoons in a series of rushes. If this is by squads, at command, the first squad (on the right) follows its corporal, running at top speed to the point indicated by the captain, where it halts and finds cover, usually flat on the ground.

When the first fraction of the company has thus established itself on the line, following the command, "By platoon (two platoons, squad or four men) from the right (left), rush," the next fraction is sent forward by the platoon leader without further command from the captain until the whole company is on the line established by the first rush.

## PLATOON AND SQUAD COLUMNS.

Having learned the principle of the advance as conducted by platoon or squad columns—the "succession of thin lines"—it is now necessary to see how this is to be done. Being in skirmish line, at the command, "Platoon columns, march," the platoon leaders move forward through the center of their respective platoons. When the company is deployed, the platoon leader is posted in the rear of the line, in order to control the fire of his men. Having moved through the center of his platoon, the men to the right of the platoon leader (as he passes through the line) march to the left and follow him in single file; likewise, those on the left march to the right. This constitutes a double column of files, which is now conducted by the platoon leader. Platoon guides follow in the rear.

The command, "Squad columns, march," is executed in a similar way. Each squad leader moves to the front, and the members of his squad oblique toward him and follow in single file at easy marching distances.

To reiterate what was said in the last article, platoon columns are profitably used where the ground is so difficult and the cover so limited as to make it desirable to take advantage of a few favorable routes, and no two platoons should march within the area of a burst of single shrapnel. Squad columns are of value principally in expediting progress over rough or brush-covered ground.

To deploy platoon or squad columns, the command is, "As skirmishers, march." Skirmishers then move to the right or left front successively and place themselves in their original positions in line.

From platoon or squad columns, the company is thus assembled. At the command, "Assemble, march," the platoon or squad leaders signal "Assemble."

## Found the Major.

The author of a book telling of experiences in the Gallipoli campaign tells this grim tale, but tells it lightly: "A solemn and dinky person met me in the officers' mess lounge the other day and asked if he might have the honor of taking my photograph for nothing. I asked him what for. He said, 'I'm from the Press Association.' 'Yes,' I said, 'but what do you want my picture for?' To which he replied in a sepulchral whisper, 'Obituary list!' I told him to go and ask the

major, and later on I saw two men burying something at the bottom of the camp. So I suppose he found the 'major.'"

## A Patriot.

"Old Stickaround has certainly acquired an aversion for autocracy here of late."

"What's the old fellow been up to now?"

"He won't even play checkers any more because he doesn't want to associate with men-jumping kings."

## Clay Figures for Movies.

In a new style of moving pictures little clay models of human figures are used to represent the actors. The result, when seen on the screen, is both startling and amusing, the tiny clay figures seeming to walk, jump and go through all the motions of talking and singing, as if actually alive. Such pictures are called animated sculpture. They owe their origin to a woman sculptor of New York, whose claywork, as she calls them, are photographed in a succession of slightly different poses, each specially modeled to carry out the action of a regular scenario or film story. The process of molding the figures is slow and laborious, as 16 different poses are required to make a foot of film. Thus if the action of the story calls for four actors in the picture, a film of ordinary length, say 200 feet, requires the careful molding by the sculptor's hands of at least 12,800 different poses for the clay figures. In some scenes, however, only slight changes are needed to give the necessary animation, these being quickly made by the deft touch of the sculptor.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

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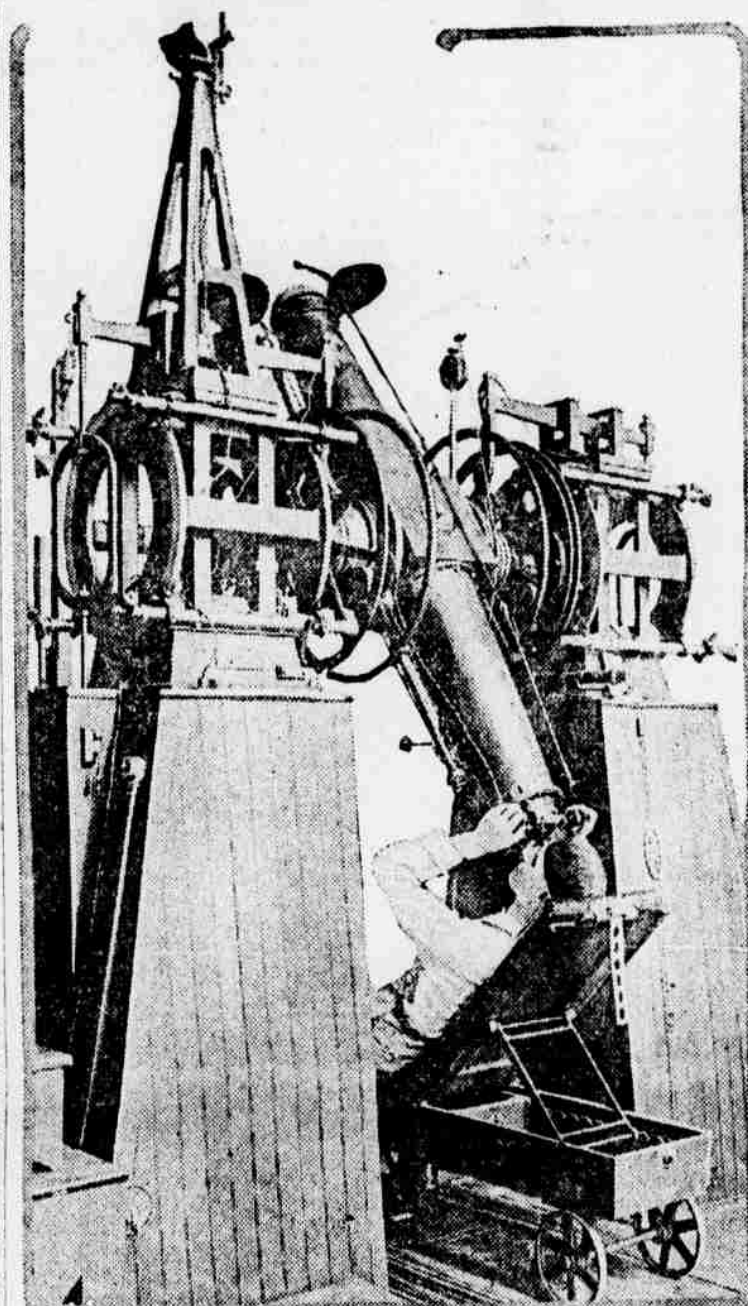
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1—Members of the Belgian mission to the United States reviewing the cadets at the Military academy at West Point. 2—View in Trieste, the Austrian city menaced by the Italian advance. 3—Mrs. William Leonard Davis of New York who has formed an American Godmothers' League for American Soldiers on lines similar to those of British and French organizations.

## CORRECTING CLOCKS OF THE NATION



The observations of the man who is gazing through this six-inch transit instrument in the United States naval observatory at Washington correct the clocks of the nation. Nearly every night the passage of known stars across the meridian is observed. From the mean of a number of such observations the error of the standard clock is calculated and the clocks are regulated to agree with it.

## GERMANS TAKEN FROM ELLIS ISLAND



Because internment at Ellis Island affords opportunities for securing information about outgoing ships in New York harbor, the Germans who have been held there are being transferred. This picture shows some of the interned Germans being placed in police patrols after being removed from the island.

## SCRAPS

South Africa is noted for its beautiful flowers.

The smallest known bird is a Central American hummingbird that is about the size of a blue-bottle fly.

Four hundred folk songs have been collected from among the people of western North Carolina and Tennessee.

American automobile busses have been put in operation with success at Merida, Yucatan.

Plans are being made to clear vast tracts of land in the Straits Settlements for the production of bananas.

The population of Imperial Valley, California, is now estimated at 53,000. These are new people in California, all having come in within the last fifteen years.

The back of a barber's chair invented by a Philadelphian is made in two parts, the lower swinging out horizontally to form a seat when a child occupies the chair.

A new seaport recently built by the government on the east side of the island of Luzon will shorten the voyage to the Philippines from American ports by three to five days.

Gen. Candido Aguilar, governor of Vera Cruz, has offered a prize of 2,000 pesos to the person who shall submit before next October a proposal for a labor law which shall best meet the requirements of the state.

## WHEN THEIR BOY LEAVES



When sons and brothers leave for the front it is but to be expected that mothers and sisters will feel downcast and sorrowful. A lump will rise in the throat of even the strongest, and tears will well up into eyes that blink hard to keep them back. This mother who has just seen her son pass by on the road that will take him to France, is struggling steadfastly but unsuccessfully to keep the sobs that are forcing their way to expression. Her daughter beside her is made of sterner stuff. She is sad, the expression on her face shows that, but is keeping back the sobs and the tears.

## "PRIVATE HARRY"



Private Harry Windsor of the Elton Boys' Officers' Training corps (indicated by X) is here seen looking out of his tent. At the camp he is known as Harry, but around Buckingham palace and other resorts of royalty he is addressed as "Your Majesty," for he is Prince Henry, third son of King George of England. Private Harry is suffering all the rigors of camp life and is amenable to military discipline. His officers show him no favoritism.

## The Whole Thing.

Young Arthur was wrestling with a lesson in grammar. "Father," said he, thoughtfully, "what part of speech is woman?"

"Woman, my boy, is not a part of speech; she is all of it," returned father.

## Daily Thought.

And fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns.—Shakespeare.

## Prudence the Better Weapon.

You conquer better by prudence than by passion.

## Amodeus.

Amodeus (Toht 3:8, 17) is the same as Abaddon or Apollyon (Rev. 9:11). From the fact that the Talmud calls him "king of the demons," some assume that he is identical with Beelzebub, and others with Asael.

## Wretch.

Chaire—Ten she was deceived in him, poor girl. She thought it was love that was making him so pale and thin, and so she was only being deceived by her own eyes.

# NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON

## White House Is Very Little in Social Light

WASHINGTON.—Someone has called President Wilson "The Lonely Man in the White House." Whether he is actually lonely or not, none of us knows. But it is a well-known fact in Washington that never has the White House been less in the social light. Never before have the carriages and motors driving up to the White House door been so few.

In the early morning if the president goes for a round of golf it is always with the same opponents—Mrs. Wilson and Doctor Grayson. In the afternoon when he goes for his drive it is always with Mrs. Wilson, and no other guests.

Luncheon at the White House used to be a time for relaxation and gaiety. President Taft and President Roosevelt were always surrounded by a host of luncheon guests. Secretary Baker has been at luncheon once with President Wilson since the war began, and Colonel House perhaps twice. Other guests there have been none.

Dinners at the White House are almost unknown. Only the most formal diplomatic dinners have been held there in the past six months. Dinner guests are few and generally immediate members of the Wilson family.

Time was when the White House grounds were always full of White House guests. Now occasionally one sees Baby McAdoo playing under the trees; but other than this child, the grounds are deserted.

Each week the president attends the theater. Always his box is filled with the same people—Mrs. Wilson, Doctor Grayson and perhaps one or two other attaches.

Perhaps it is his studious nature which seeks seclusion, but the name, "The Lonely Man in the White House," outwardly seems fitting.

## Crowds of "Undesirables" Throng the Capital

PERHAPS you have heard of the "gimmie-gruy." He is a peculiar animal, but not at all rare. He is of the male sex and talks in terms of the word "gimmie." It is always either "gimmie a match" or "gimmie a cigarette." Washington since the outbreak of the war has developed a new strain of this species; it is the "get-me man."

The national capital is overflowing with the people who are here to get something. Hundreds of young men have flooded into the city and besieged their congressmen and other "back-home" officials to get them commissions in either the army or the navy. It doesn't appear to the casual observer here as though any American is willing to be a private. There is the youth who doesn't want to go to war. He has come to Washington in herds looking for a governmental position which will exempt him from the draft. Compensation doesn't matter; what he wants is to keep out of war.

Then there is the great horde of men who have come to get fat government contracts. Any day at ten in the morning you can find half a hundred important-looking men, guarding fat bundles of documents, waiting at the doors of the state, war and navy buildings in hopes of getting in to see someone that can give them a contract. They range from the man who has come to offer the government lumber for cantonments to the youth who wants to sell the army all its belt buckles.

Women haven't been missing in the "get-me" class, either. There are great numbers of young girls and women who have come to the capital to get positions. They are willing to fill the places of men who can go to war, but most of them have found the conditions of work altogether too strenuous and they are thinning out rapidly.

## Unfortunate Washingtonians Pine for Amusements

"PAINTING the town red" or "making the rounds," can't be done in Washington. There is an amusement famine here. The war and the flood of business that has come with it to this city have caught the amusement venter off his guard. Under normal conditions summer time finds Washington the American counterpart of Goldsmith's "Deserted Village." This summer, despite its heat, has found Washington crowded and jammed with people who are "all dressed up and no place to go."

Night-time amusements, which afford relaxation for the hard-working hundreds who have come to the capital, are absolutely lacking. There is but one cafe in the entire city where dancing is allowed. Roof gardens are limited to three, two of which are private. Summer theaters—there are none.

What does one do? There is just one popular Washington amusement for summer. Soon after dinner, just at twilight, the Washingtonian who wants to keep cool and have diversion hires himself to the nearest cabstand. Here he chariters an "open-face" hack, such as passed out in every other city with the advent of the automobile. Lounging back in the cushions the pleasure seeker orders "River drive," and away he goes for his night of fun.

"Clickety clack" and "clungety clung," the horses patter around the River drive. Hundreds of vehicles pass down the banks of the Potomac in an endless stream. The moon peeps out from behind a cloud, and the lights on the opposite bank glimmer across the stream. It is surely a beautiful sight, but it is small amusement for the man who is striving hard to forget the war for the evening and wants to have his mind running full of "raggedy melodies."

Washington offers the greatest opportunity in the world at the present time for a refined Coney Island.

## His Wild "Joy Ride" Brought to a Sudden End

EVER since they placed those four large buffaloes on the Q street bridge there has been a question regarding just what kind of animals they are. Some say their faces are too long. Some say their amiable and rather dull countenances bespeak the Siberian goshawk rather than the wild and untamable bull buffalo that made Colonel Cody wealthy. There has been a rumor—to put it mildly—that these were nonunion buffaloes. However, it appears that in reality they are saddle buffaloes, and this discovery was made by a man who is today ruefully recovering from the effects of a terrible ride across the dusty plains of the Q street bridge in company with John Barleycorn, whom we are about to lose from our midst.

A policeman sauntering along toward the bridge one night was attracted by a man who was spurring one of the buffaloes. The man was full astride his mount and going like the wind—at least he thought so. He was plying phantom whip like mad and making noise enough for a Cheyenne round-up. The policeman said something to the rider, who, in turn, whispered something else in the buffalo's ear and away he went again.

Then the bluecoat climbed up the stern of the buffalo, and as he did so the man slid off and made for another of the four beasts. The policeman caught him and began reasoning with him, and came to the conclusion that the proper mount for the rider would be a cot in an infirmary ward—and it turned out the policeman was right.

## POSTSCRIPTS

An instrument has been perfected by German electricians for accurately measuring the voltage of high tension currents up to 150,000 volts.

An automobile alarm whistle so connected to the cylinder of a car can be made to utilize the full force of their explosion when desired.

The crew of a French submarine has been divided into five parts, the crews being assigned to various parts of the sub, and each crew having its own duties.

A new device in efficiency is a clock which, stationed at a central point in a factory, records the time each machine in the plant is running.

An eighteen-year-old Utah boy is the inventor of a combined rule and triangle that solves problems in trigonometry, geometry and mathematics.

According to Dutch legend, Joan was second in the United States in the production of soap, her soap being sold in the United States.